

Kadejah Gamble
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My name is Kadejah Gamble and I am an 11th grade student at Achievement First Hartford High School.

I speak to you today as a student who has changed so much because of a great public charter school, and urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1096, which would prevent more charter schools from opening.

Achievement First transformed my learning experience. After I started going to Achievement First, I went from a student who did not want to learn to an enthusiastic learner. I went from a student who skipped class to one who attends all my classes and started growing academically. I went from a person who disrespected my teachers to a person who reflects on how I treated people.

Today I'm an honors student at AF Hartford High. I'm also the vice president of my 11th grade class. I am interested in attending Connecticut College and then going on to become a psychologist who helps children and teenagers, so that I can use what I have learned to help others in the community.

When I think about the charter school moratorium that has been proposed, I think about my little niece, who is only five. She should be able to receive a good education, just like I have, and we need more great schools for that to happen. I know I was one of the lucky ones. I got a seat at Achievement First. Other kids in my neighborhood aren't as lucky. We need more great schools to give more opportunities to people who currently don't have access, and that motivate all students to succeed.

I had this great opportunity to go to a public charter school that prepared me for success, but if this bill is passed, that opportunity will be taken away from someone else. I want other kids in Hartford, and everywhere, to have where I have.

Please vote against Senate Bill 1096 and support the more great charter schools.